

"Money and Giving, Part 3" - 2 Corinthians 8:10-24 – December 18th, 2016

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series I've titled, "Money and Giving."
- Lord willing, we'll finish chapter eight and next week pick it up in chapter nine in which Paul continues addressing this matter.
- As we're about to see in the text before us today this matter of giving money is often misunderstood on the part of Christians.

1. Giving is to be according to what we have (Verses 10-12)

- v10 Paul says his judgment for them in this matter is that the previous year they were the first to give and also have the desire.
- v11 He then says that they should follow through and do it so their eager willingness to do it is matched by their completion of it.
- v12 He says it should be according to their means because the gift is acceptable to what they have, not what they don't have.

- Paul is touching on two very important points here the first of which has to do with following through on our commitment to give.
- I find it interesting that he would remind them of the commitment they had made the year prior, which it seems they didn't keep.
- The point being is that when it comes to money and giving, the best of our intentions mean absolutely nothing if we don't do it.

One commentator said it best this way, "You've expressed the desire to give," Paul says. "Now do it." In John 13:17, Jesus said, "...Happy are ye if ye do these things." If you're basically unhappy, melancholy, depressed, discouraged, or defeated, the reason could very well be that there is something the Lord has told you to do with which you agree theoretically, but which you have failed to work out practically.

- The second important point Paul touches on has to do with our giving being proportionate to what we have, not what we don't.
- Not only are we unable to give what we don't have, God certainly does not expect us to give that which we simply don't have.
- In other words, it's not a matter of how much we give, it's that we give out of our obedience and in proportion to what we have.

2. Giving will be measured back to you (Verses 13-15)

- v13 Paul says that they in no way desire that others are relieved while they are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.
- v14 He says presently, their plenty will supply what's needed, so that in turn their plenty will supply what they need as equally.
- v15 He quotes Exodus 16:18 saying the one who gathered much didn't have too much and those with little didn't have too little.

Exodus 16:16–20 -- 16 This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.' 17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. 18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. 19 And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." 20 Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

- I believe Paul quotes this account in Exodus for two reasons, chief of which is because we as Christians are prone to hoard.
- Hoarding is due to our lack of faith and trust in God to provide all our needs, when we need them, and it's also do to greed.
- The problem is that God won't bless us when we hoard, especially if we do so out of greed. In the end, it will become rotten.

Of this one commentator aptly noted, "All that we have is manna ... And just as manna, which was hoarded to excess out of greed or lack of faith, immediately putrefied, so we should have no doubt that riches which are heaped up at the expense of our brethren are accursed and will soon perish and their owner will be ruined with them."

- The second reason he quotes Exodus is because God will always provide just as He provided Israel with manna from heaven.
- Paul takes it a step further by saying that the measure in which we give, will be reciprocated by the measure we'll be given to.
- While this is not the reason we should give it's a Biblical principal none-the-less, and it's one for which Jesus speaks to in Luke.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Of this principle one commentator said, "This is a principle not only of finances but of life. "Give and it shall be given unto you," ...Whether regarding money or mercy, goods or grace—whatever you extend will come back your way.

3. Giving brings honor to the Lord (Verses 16-19)

- v16-17 Paul gives thanks to God for Titus having his same concern for them, by welcoming their appeal with much enthusiasm.
- v18 He then says that they're sending with Titus another brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel.
- v19 He says he was chosen to accompany them with the offering administered to honor the Lord and show eagerness to help.

Here, Paul is sort of echoing Proverbs 3:9–10 -- 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

4. Giving is to be liberal (Verses 20-24)

- v20-21 He says they want to avoid criticism in how they administer this liberal gift by do what is right in God's and mans eyes.
- v22 He says they're sending a brother who has often proved himself zealous in many ways because of his confidence in them.
- v23-24 He tells them to show these men the proof of their love and the reason for his pride in them so the churches can see it.